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**PATENT APPLICATION**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re application of

Docket No: Q67160

Haruyasu SAKATA, et al.

Appln. No.: 09/986,686

Group Art Unit: 2651

Confirmation No.: 5876

Examiner: NOT YET ASSIGNED

Filed: November 09, 2001

For: RECORDING APPARATUS FOR USE WITH OPTICAL RECORDING MEDIUM AND METHOD THEREOF

**STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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DEC 17 2003

Technology Center 2600

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making a reasonable inquiry, that the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

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Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Mexic  
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WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 15, 2003



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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**  
**UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicants hereby notify the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith. Also, enclosed is a European Office Action in a corresponding European Patent Application, citing the cited documents.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed: (1) No later than three months from the application's filing date; (2) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later); or (3) Before the mailing date of the first Office Action after filing a request for continued examination (RCE) under §1.114, and therefore, no Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required. Nevertheless, since a Statement can be made, a Statement is submitted herewith.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
U.S. Appln. No.: 09/986,686  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q67160

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. §1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of a Communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application citing such documents, together with an English-language version (if not already included) of at least that portion of the Communication indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign patent office. *Also, the submission of the attached English language abstracts along with Japanese Laid-open Publication Nos. 4-320384 and 60-251731 constitutes concise statements of relevance of the respective references.*

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicants do not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

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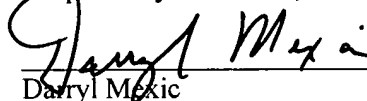
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